

Political Science 4000  
Special Topics: Misinformation, the Media and Generational Change  
Spring 2021  
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### **Introduction:**

This is a Covid version of this course. It is online and asynchronous. This makes it much less fun, but much more safe. I hope to see you in a non-Covid course in the future!

This course will examine the ubiquitous nature of political misinformation in the U.S. political environment, the reason misinformation is utilized, the impact this misinformation has on civic engagement and elections, the media's role in this phenomenon, how the generational balance in the U.S. electorate factors into misinformation use and potential remedies to this current circumstance.

### **Assignments and % of Grade:**

#### **Projects (2/3) – 35%:**

Critical Analysis papers on topics of your choosing.  
The specific directions and requirements are available on our course Moodle page.

#### **Critical Thought/Reflection Papers – 35%:**

Papers of a broad nature on the larger aspects of the course.  
The specific directions and requirements are available on our course Moodle page.

#### **Essays (2) – 25%:**

Opinion and analysis papers discussing the impact of misinformation on our political system and society.  
The specific directions and requirements are available on our course Moodle page.

#### **Journal – 5%:**

You will keep a journal of everything you read and provide feedback to me.  
The specific directions and requirements are available on our course Moodle page.

#### **Required Reading:**

Electronic copies are fine. Find them as cheaply as possible.  
When I've purchased them, they ranged between \$5 and \$20.

1. The Good Citizen. How a Younger Generation Is Reshaping American Politics  
THIRD EDITION  
Russell J. Dalton - University of California, Irvine, USA  
ISBN: 9781544395821 Electronic  
ISBN: 9781544395852 Paperback
2. How America Lost Its Mind. The Assault on Reason That's Crippling Our Democracy  
Thomas E. Patterson  
ISBN: 9780806164328
3. Let them Eat Tweets. How the Right Rules in an Age of Extreme Inequality  
Hacker and Pierson  
ISBN: 9781631499036
4. How Fascism Works: The Politics of Us and Them  
Jason Stanley  
ISBN: 9780525511830
5. On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century  
Timothy Snyder  
ISBN: 9780804190114
6. Various reading assignments provided via Moodle